

Mr. C. Matthai.—It serves no purpose whatsoever. As the Member himself pointed out, they are within a few yards of each other.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Has the Government gathered information as to whether the nearness of the two schools does not make one superfluous?

Mr. C. Matthai.—What is the earthly necessity of gathering information of that kind?

The special fee for Commercial students.

317. Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state as to whether any special fee has been introduced for attending the commercial section in the High Schools of our State; if so, when was it first introduced and what is the special purpose for which it was introduced;

(b) is there any such fee imposed upon students studying for any of the Sciences;

(c) what is the approximate average expenditure for apparatus for a physical Science student of the Upper Secondary standard as well as that for a commercial student of the same standard in a school of a dozen students of each section for a period of ten years;

(d) are pupils attending commercial classes eligible for collegiate course in any section;

(e) seeing that only students who are from poverty or other cause unable to go in for higher studies go in for commercial course, and also considering that the Science section is not charged with any special fee, and in face of the universal cry of unemployment among the educated classes, how does the Government justify its action in this respect?

Mr. C. Matthai.—(a) Yes; it was introduced in Thulam 1101, so as to make up a portion of the amount spent by Government on type-writers and accessories.

(b) No.

(c) Rs. 40 each.

(d) Not at present.

(e) No justification seems called for. Time alone can show whether the measure is not well conceived.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Sub-division (c).—Rupees 40. Is it after the imposition of the fee? What is the approximate expenditure for a Physical Science student and a Commercial student in a school of a dozen students?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The answer is Rs. 40 each.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I think the answer is Rs. 40 for each student. Is it after the imposition of fee for the Commercial student or prior to its imposition?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Apart from the fee altogether. The Science student pays fee for the whole course and not for Science subjects, but the Commercial student pays fees for the Commercial subjects. These fees are not taken into account in calculating the expenditure.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—But the Commercial student has also to pay the whole fee.

Mr. C. Matthai.—But I said the expenditure should be taken, instead of the fee.

President.—Are you not understanding each other?

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Has the department come to know that it is working hardship?

Mr. C. Matthai.—It has been tried 'only for' one year. It is too short a time.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I speak about the Vadakkancheri High school. In the Fifth Form last year, there were a large number of students for the Commercial course. This year there are few.

President.—You are to ask supplementary questions. What is the supplementary question, and if there is a question, what is the answer for it?

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Has the department come to know by the working of the group till now whether any hardship is caused?

Mr. C. Matthai.—A certain amount of hardship might be caused, but we have to consider the advantages as well as the disadvantages before coming to a decision.

Classes without minimum strength.

318. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of classes or divisions in the schools conducted by the Government and that has not the minimum strength of 30 in Boys' Schools and 20 in Girls' Schools?

Mr. C. Matthai.—There are 422 classes and divisions in Boys' Schools and 25 in Girls' Schools that have not the minimum strength.

319. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any step in the matter of deficiency in strength in the Sirkar Schools and, if so, what are they?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Various steps are taken. Some of them are.—

- (1) The co-operation of Panchayats has been enlisted.
- (2) Teachers capable of exerting local influence are posted to such schools.
- (3) Indifference on the part of teachers is punished.